

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph before page 1, line 11.

-- This is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/762,977, filed April 19, 2001, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,696,555, which is a national stage application of international application PCT/EP99/06036, filed August 18, 1999, which in turn claims priority to German Application No. 198 37 387, filed August 18, 1998. All of the above applications are expressly incorporated herein by reference. --